Rubber production

728. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rubber production in the country for the last five years, year-wise;

(b) whether Government have recently lifted all restrictions for rubber import;

(c) if so, the details of rubber import in the past three years;

(d) whether Government have felt the need to allocate special funds to help improve production in order to revive the rubber industry;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Production of Natural Rubber (NR) in the country during the last five years is given below:-

Year	Quantity (tonnes)
1998-99	605,045
1999-00	622,265
2000-01	630,265
2001-02	631,400
2002-03	649,435

(b) Government has recently lifted the restrictions on duty free import of NR under the Advance Licence Scheme. However, the port restrictions on import of NR and enforcement of BIS standards on quality of NR being imported are still continuing.

(c) Import of rubber in the past three years is given below:-

Year	Quantity (Tonnes)
2000-01	8970
2001-02	49769
2002-03	26229

(d) and (e) The Government through Rubber Board, is already implementing a number of Plan Schemes for the development of the rubber sector. The schemes provide for suitable financial/technical assistance to the growers, processors, exporters etc. for increasing production of Natural Rubber through expansion of area, enhancing the productivity, improving the quality of the produce to achieve competitiveness in the global markets, promoting agricultural and technological research in the interest of the industry, besides promoting export of this commodity.

(f) Does not arise.

Incentives to rose producers in Rajasthan

729. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pushkar in Rajasthan produced the best export quality roses in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government intend to extend any special incentives to rose producers in the State to further develop its flower sector for export purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) While roses